

Directive

9180.67

1-24-05

TRANSGENIC STATEMENTS FOR GRAIN AND GRADED COMMODITIES

1. PURPOSE

This directive transmits procedures for providing letterhead statements pertaining to the transgenic (genetic modification) status of grain, rice, and graded commodities in U.S. commerce. Also included in this directive are miscellaneous biotechnology statements related to corn, soybeans, and soybean meal, and to the performance of testing methods used for detecting StarLink™ corn.

2. REPLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

This directive replaces FGIS Directive 9180.67, dated 10-11-00. This directive is revised to change the title and to include additional letterhead statements.

3. BACKGROUND

The Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) has received requests to provide a letterhead statement indicating the transgenic status of grain, rice, pulses, and other agricultural varieties that are in commercial production in the United States.

To date, the U.S. Government has deregulated some agricultural commodities for commercial production in the United States, while others are still regulated. The regulated/deregulated status of these agricultural commodities fall within three categories:

- Regulated and not for commercial production in the United States.
- Deregulated, but based upon information supplied by the developer, not for sale or in commercial production.
- Deregulated and in commercial production in the United States.

In an effort to aid the grain industry in the marketing of U.S. grain, pulses, and other agricultural commodities, GIPSA will provide (upon request of an applicant) the applicable letterhead statement.

4. TRANSGENIC STATEMENTS

- a. No transgenic varieties approved for commercial production in the United States.

The following statement is applicable for barley, wheat, sorghum, sunflower seed, dry edible beans, chickpeas, lentils, and peas.

“There are no transgenic (identify agricultural commodity) varieties for sale or in commercial production in the United States at this time.”

- b. Some varieties approved, but not for sale or in commercial production in the United States.

- (1) Mustard Seed

“There are no transgenic Yellow, Brown, or Oriental mustard seed (*Brassica hirta* or *Brassica juncea*) varieties for sale or in commercial production in the United States at this time.”

- (2) Flaxseed

“The United States Department of Agriculture has deregulated one variety of herbicide-tolerant flaxseed; but based upon information supplied by the developer, this variety is not for sale or in commercial production in the United States.”

- c. Some varieties approved for sale and currently in commercial production in the United States at this time.

This statement listed below is applicable for soybeans, corn, and canola.

“Transgenic (identify grain) commercially produced in the United States have completed the necessary review under the U.S. regulatory process for determining the safety of new agricultural biotechnology products. This well coordinated regulatory process sets U.S. standards for human, animal and plant health, and environmental safety. The transgenic (identify grain) used for domestic purposes are the same as those used for export.”

5. MISCELLANEOUS STATEMENTS

GIPSA also provides (upon request of an applicant) the following miscellaneous statements on letterhead stationary.

a. Soybeans and Soybean Meal.

- (1) “We hereby certify that the soybeans may come from genetically modified soybeans of the type Monsanto Roundup Ready Soybeans which have been approved for import into the EEC under directive 96/281/EC.”
- (2) “The soybeans may come from genetically modified soybeans of the Monsanto Roundup Ready Soybeans.”
- (3) “Soybean meal is a processed commodity made from soybeans that may contain genetically modified soybeans of the type Monsanto Roundup Ready Soybeans which have been approved for import in the EEC under directive 96/281/EC.”

b. Testing Parameters.

“The sample was tested using a method equal to or exceeding the performance of the USDA’s GIPSA testing recommendations, as set out in Directive 9181.1.”

6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information about the status of grain, rice, pulses, and other agricultural commodities reviewed by the U.S. Government, please consult <http://usbiotechreg.nbio.gov/>.

For information concerning the letterhead statements contact the Policies and Procedures Branch at (202) 720-0228.

/s/ David Orr

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